

August 15, 2022

The Honorable Madeleine Dean
U.S. House of Representatives
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Dean and Bucshon:

The Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) applaud you for your leadership in introducing the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act of 2022.

Healthcare workers across the nation have experienced a sharp increase in incidences of workplace violence. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare workers are five times more likely than any other type of worker to be physically attacked on the job.

Violence in the health care setting has implications beyond any physical injuries as workplace violence and intimidation make it more difficult for clinical staff to provide quality patient care. Attentive care is compromised when caregivers are afraid for their personal safety, distracted by disruptive patients or family members, or traumatized from prior attacks. Further, violent attacks can delay urgently needed care for other patients, reduce employee productivity, and increase the likelihood of adverse events.

We are highly supportive of your bipartisan legislation that would make it a federal crime to assault or intimidate a hospital employee and as a result interfere with the ability of that employee to perform their duties. Enhanced penalties would apply to acts that involve dangerous weapons, result in bodily injury or are committed during an emergency declaration.

We are further supportive of the proposed establishment a federal grant program at the Department of Justice to augment hospitals' efforts to reduce violence, by funding violence prevention training programs, coordination with state and local law enforcement, and physical plant improvements, such as metal detectors and panic buttons.

Ensuring a safe and secure working environment for all healthcare workers is essential to providing quality care to the patients.

Dean and Bucshon

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Sincerely,

Sandra L. Kane-Gill, PharmD, FCCP, FCCM

SCCM President

Amanda Bettencourt, PhD, APRN, CCRN-K, ACCNS-P

President, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses